

# THE MEDICAL NEWS AND LIBRARY.

VOL. VI.

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### WEST'S LECTURES,

### MEDICAL PROGRESS.

Preliminary Medical Education.—Regulations of the Buffalo Medical Association.—

In conformity with the recommendation of the American Medical Convention, the Buffalo Medical Association some time since adopted regulations with a view to secure proper preliminary qualifications of students into the offices of its members.

The committee appointed to draft the necessary regulations to effect this object, reported the following additions to the by-laws of the Association, which were adopted, and we publish them in the hope that other medical associations throughout the Union may adopt similar provisions.

1. To be admitted to the offices of any of the members of this Association, as a student of medicine, it shall be required that the applicant shall, in addition to an English Academic education, have made respectable attainments in the Latin language; and that he shall sustain a good moral character. In evidence of which, the applicant shall present the certificate provided for by the fifteenth section of these by-laws.

2. A Board of Examiners, consisting of three, to be called the "Primary Board,"

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shall be chosen at the Annual Election, by ballot, whose duty it shall be, whenever notified in writing by any member, to meet and examine the applicant.

3. If the examination is satisfactory, the applicant shall be furnished with a certificate of the fact, in the following form:

We certify that we have examined A—B—, of C—, and that he has a good English Academic education. We certify also, that he has produced before us a certificate (or certificates, or an affidavit, as the case may be. An affidavit made before a proper officer, may be secured where, for reasons which may seem satisfactory to the Board, a certificate cannot be obtained), that he has diligently studied the Latin language during six months, (or, that he is a graduate of a literary college.)

We further certify that he has produced before us, a certificate of good moral character.

Signed by at least two members of the Board.

A—  
B—  
C— } Primary Board.

[Dated]

4. The Board shall, at each secular

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meeting, furnish to the Association the names of those to whom they have given certificates since the last regular meeting, and the Secretary of the Association shall make a faithful record of the same.—*Buffalo Med. Journ.*, June 1848.

*Peoria District Medical Society.*—This society held its annual meeting in Peoria, on the 6th of June; about 30 members were present.

The annual address was delivered by the President, Dr. A. McNeill, after which Dr. Frye gave a lecture on Generation, and Dr. Colbourn read a report on the use of ether in obstetric practice.

The officers for the ensuing year were elected:—

*President*, Dr. E. M. Colbourn.

*Vice Presidents*, Drs. T. Hall, and A. Stockwell.

*Treasurer*, E. Dickenson.

*Rec. Sec.*, E. Andrew.

*Cor. Sec.*, J. Murphy.

*Censors*, Drs. Sexton, Arnold, Wilson, Quigly, and Christy.

The following were appointed *delegates to the American Medical Association*, at the meeting in Boston, next year:—Drs. J. C. Frye, Edward Dickenson, F. A. McNeill, and H. H. Sexton.

Standing committees were appointed:—

1. On Medical Inquiry, Dr. John Murphy, *chairman*;
2. On Medical Statistics, Dr. S. A. Hanneford, *chairman*;
3. On Indigenous Botany, Dr. J. D. Arnold, *chairman*;
4. Committee on Library and Museum, Dr. E. Dickenson, *chairman*;
5. Committee on Natural History, Dr. N. S. Tucker, *chairman*.

Also, the following special committees.

1. On the influence of malarious atmosphere on the prevention and cure of pulmonary diseases, Dr. J. C. Frye.
2. On the utility of anesthetic agents in the practice of Medicine and Surgery, Drs. Andrew, Colbourn, and Cooke.

The Society adopted the code of ethics of the American Medical Association.

#### CLINICS.

*Clinical Lecture on Failure of Diagnosis, delivered at Westminster Hospital.*—By B. PHILLIPS, F. R. S. (Continued from page 73.)

There are on record many cases where cys-

totomy has been performed for the extraction of calculi which could not be found. In some cases they may have been very small, and escaped with the gush of urine, and have thus been lost. In others there was no doubt a false diagnosis.

Fatty tumours in the abdominal parietes have been mistaken for hernia. Such a case is mentioned by Heister. Pelletan mentions a case of the kind which was operated on at the Hôtel Dieu in 1809. Scarpa committed a similar error, and did not discover it until he had laid it open. M. Cruveilhier mentions another case, which occurred to Dupuytren. Ollivier mentions a case of the same kind.

Velpeau says that, with these cases before his eyes, he was nearly falling into Scarpa's error. The patient was a young woman, moderately stout, who had been for a fortnight under the care of M. Parent. For twenty-four hours she had all the signs of strangulated hernia. A tumour as large as an egg was observed in the region of the umbilicus, and could not be made to disappear. The patient had observed it for four or five years, and she stated that by pressure she had often made it to disappear. There were constipation, nausea, continual vomiting, tension, and pain in the abdomen, small pulse, contracted countenance. In consequence of a mistake, she died without operation. It was found after death that the symptoms had been produced by peritonitis, which appeared to have been excited by some disease of the ovaries and Fallopian tubes. The umbilical tumour was fat. The rounded form, the small size, the seat, the pedicle, its irreducibility, its general enlargement, the absence of pain on pressure, though the rest of the abdomen was more or less painful, were the important features; but it was impossible to pronounce that it was not a hernia.

Biot mentions the case of a man of 50, who, while engaged in splitting wood, suddenly found a resistant tumour in the groin, extending along the cord into the scrotum, accompanied by tension in the abdomen, constipation, and obstinate vomiting. The operation for strangulated hernia was performed. Only serous pus was found, and that in the cellular structure of the cord.

Cooper mentions a case where a femoral hernia was mistaken for a bubo, and covered with a poultice for three days.

A distinguished hospital-surgeon mistook a crural hernia for a glandular swelling. The operation was not performed, and the patient died. Sabatier mentions a similar case. Similar cases are mentioned by Petit and Murray. Gooch mentions a case where a bubonocele, and also a femoral hernia, were mistaken for abscess and punctured. There are other cases in Heister and Petit.

Plater plunged an instrument into a tumour in the groin: nothing but urine escaped. It turned out to be a displaced bladder.

Paré, Dionis, Marchettis, and others, have seen a testicle arrested in the inguinal canal, treated as a hernia.

Warner punctured a tumour which he took for a hydrocele; but it turned out to be an epiplocele. Mery mentions a case where a cystocele was mistaken for a hydrocele. It disappeared, however, upon the introduction of a catheter.

Cases in which encysted hydroceles and hydatids were mistaken for hernia are mentioned by Boyer and Paletta. Morgagni mentions three cases: one in the umbilicus and two in the groin, where fatty tumours were mistaken for hernia. Pelletan mentions another; Cruveilhier another.

Several times the yielding centre of an extravasation of blood upon the cranium has been mistaken for fracture with depression. Petit describes three of such cases.

A dilated gall-bladder has been mistaken for encysted dropsy, and for abscess. Five such cases are mentioned by Petit, where the tumour was punctured, and in three the patients died. Pipelet mentions two cases where an epiplocele was mistaken for a varicocele; and Richerand mentions a case where a double epiplocele was mistaken for thickening of the spermatic cords. Although he was in doubt, he yielded to the patient's desire to undergo castration. To his surprise, he found in front of the cords two epiploic tumours.

In Bauhin's Appendix to the work of Rousset on the Cæsarean Section, nineteen cases are mentioned where the whole uterus was extirpated. Among them are some who again became pregnant, and were delivered. There must have been mistakes here.

In how many cases, again, have polypi been mistaken for prolapsus uteri! Ledran placed a ligature around a prolapsed uterus, which was mistaken for a fleshy growth. The woman died on the seventeenth day.

In many cases, non-malignant tumours of

the breast have been extirpated in the belief that they were cancer.

In how many cases have foreign bodies in the larynx and trachea destroyed life, the surgeon being unable to satisfy himself that they were there at all!

Louis mentions the case of a child who was playing with beans: one was swallowed. In a moment a violent suffocating cough occurred: the face became directly blue. A surgeon was sent for. He was ignorant of the cause of the child's condition; but, thinking there must be something in the œsophagus, passed down a probang. A large quantity of mucus came up. Respiration became easy, and the child, who till then had not spoken, conversed freely. In the succeeding night a paroxysm suddenly returned, and the child died. Search was made, and the bean was found under the glottis.

Louis also mentions a little girl who swallowed, while playing, a kidney-bean. Immediately a convulsive cough and difficult breathing came on. Several surgeons, thinking that the bean had passed into the œsophagus, tried to make it pass down into the stomach. Two days after, when Louis saw the case, the respiration was embarrassed, and the patient pointed to the trachea where she felt pain. Bronchotomy was proposed, but not agreed to in consultation, some thinking that a kidney-bean could not enter the glottis. Emetics were given, but the child died the next day.

May's case was similar, and so was the result. A little girl of four years fell down when she had an apricot-kernel in her mouth. Violent cough came on, and she was threatened with suffocation. Two hours after, all that remained of those symptoms was a slightly whistling respiration; and, after a time, that completely disappeared. All the symptoms returned suddenly, and the patient died in sixty hours. The half of the kernel was found under the cricoid cartilages.

A merchant threw up a louis d'or, caught it in his mouth, and it passed into the trachea. The symptoms of suffocation which immediately came on, did not last a moment, but returned occasionally for four years, and were regarded as attacks of asthma. Louis, seeing that the louis d'or had not been expelled, and that the patient said he felt it distinctly in the trachea, proposed bronchotomy: the other consulting surgeons opposed it. The patient died two years afterwards.

The piece of gold was found placed perpendicularly to the first bifurcation of the right bronchus.

Dupuytren mentioned the case of a child of six years who was engaged in throwing up haricots, and catching them in his mouth. Suddenly he was seized with cough and suffocation. A short time passed, when, in a fit of passion, vomiting, cough, and extreme anxiety came on. A medical man was called, and concluded that the foreign body was in the œsophagus: he sounded that passage, and gave emetics; yet the pain in the trachea and embarrassed respiration continued. Leeches were applied on the trachea. The fifth day the paroxysms returned with violence. The child was taken to Dupuytren: he performed tracheotomy, extracted the haricot, and the child got well.

A child of nine years swallowed by mistake a piece of lead-pencil. Suffocating cough and dyspnoea quickly supervened, but in two days they gradually subsided. In the succeeding six years he had constant cough, occasional embarrassment in respiration, and discomfort in the throat. All thoughts of the foreign body had disappeared, when one day, while leaning forward in cutting a piece of wood, a violent fit of coughing came on, and the crayon was forcibly expelled.

Frank, Murray, Chopart, and others, mention cases of retention of urine mistaken for dropsy. In Frank's case, it is said twenty-four pounds were drawn off. After death, eighty pounds more were found there. In Murray's case there were eighteen pints. Berard mentions a case where a dropsy, accompanied by suppression, was mistaken for retention. A catheter was passed: nothing escaped. It was forcibly pushed farther, the bladder was pierced, the fluid escaped, and then death afforded an opportunity of ascertaining what had happened.

Sabatier mentions a case of fracture of the neck of the femur without shortening, in which the patient had fallen on the trochanter, and received much contusion. Slight movement of the limb could be executed, though with much pain. Sabatier believed there was neither fracture nor luxation. Some days afterwards shortening occurred, and the fracture was discovered. I might mention many similar cases. Sabatier mentions a case where a spontaneous luxation of the femur was mistaken for an ordinary one. In consequence of a fall, the child presented

symptoms of disease of the right hip. The limb was shortened; the toes inverted. An empiric attempted reduction, and applied an apparatus. Some time after, the patient, by his advice, attempted to walk; suffered much pain, great irritation was excited, and he died. An examination revealed old hip disease and caries.

Paré attended a lady who had one leg shorter than the other—the great trochanter on the injured side prominent upon the ilium. He thought the thigh was dislocated; and, after having extended the limb sufficiently to reduce it, he applied an apparatus around the hip and limb. Two days afterwards the limb was shortened again, the foot inclined inwards. The fresh attempts to reduce it produced crepitus, and the error was discovered.

Petit, being consulted by a person who had fractured the neck of the femur, felt the trochanter four fingers' breadth higher than the other—the point of the foot and the knee turned inwards. He believed there was dislocation upwards and outwards; but, upon taking hold of the foot, and rotating it outwards without assistance, he discovered that he had to do with fracture of the neck of the femur.

Fractures about the elbow-joint have often been mistaken for dislocations. Cases are mentioned by Dupuytren, Cooper, and others.

Scores of cases of fracture of the lower end of the radius have been mistaken for dislocation of the wrist. There are many cases, again, when, in wounds of the head, a suture has been mistaken for a fracture; many cases in which sebaceous and other tumours of the scalp have been mistaken sometimes for aneurism, sometimes for encephalocele.

I have now laid before you, from the records of our profession, a considerable number of cases in which serious errors have been committed by men who have not shrunk from making known instances in which, from negligence or from the obscurity of the case, a failure of diagnosis has occurred to them, and in many of them the death of the patient has been the result. The extent of that catalogue might be increased sevenfold, from authentic sources. Then how many failures have never seen the light! With all the care you can bestow in your examination, and with all the tact you may have in diagnosis, these miscarriages may

happen to any of you; and, if they do, I trust you may not be open to the blame from others, or to the reproach from yourself, that with more care and knowledge the accident would not have happened.—*Lond. Med. Gaz.*, April 1848.

### MEDICAL NEWS.

#### AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE.

*American Medical Association.*—We notice with great regret in the *Medical Examiner* for July, the following extraordinary misrepresentation of the acts of the American Medical Association.

"It will be recollected, that at the Medical Convention which was held in Philadelphia last year, resolutions were passed, requesting the Colleges to extend the term to *six months*, and pledging the support of the Convention to such schools as adopted that, and other proposed improvements. At the meeting of the American Medical Association this year, in the City of Baltimore, the Committee on Medical Education in their report, which was adopted by the Association, recommended that the term should be *five months*; and the resolution pledging the support by the Association of such schools only as adopted the suggestions of the Association, was passed over, as partaking too much of the character of a menace.

"All must rejoice at the spirit which is manifested in these proceedings, so much more in accordance with the dignity of the body, than the hasty resolves of the previous year."

This statement is entirely unfounded. No recommendation to change the lecture-term to *five months*, was adopted by, or even proposed to, the Association at its meeting in Baltimore. On the contrary, so far from retracing their steps, as thus intimated, the Association adopted a resolution, (as will be seen by referring to the June number of this Journal,) reported by the Committee on Medical Education, "reiterating and strongly recommending a practical observance of the resolutions appended to the report of the committee on preliminary education, and on the requisites for graduation, submitted to the Medical Convention which assembled in Philadelphia, in May, 1847." Among the resolutions thus reiterated, are the following:

*Resolved* "1st. That it be recommended

to all the Colleges to extend the period employed in lecturing from four to *six months*."

"10th. That it be considered the duty of preceptors, to advise their students to attend such institutions only as shall rigidly adhere to their recommendations herein contained."—(See *Proceedings of Nat. Med. Con.*, pp. 73, 74.)

Since the above was written, we have received the following communication from one of the Secretaries of the Association.

*Editor of the Med. News, &c.*

DEAR SIR:—I have met with a statement in several medical journals, and particularly in the *Medical Examiner* for the present month, to the effect that the American Medical Association had retreated from its original position in regard to the length of the lecture term, and that it now recommends a term of *five months* only. It is due to the Association, and to the profession throughout the country, which so cordially responded to the appeals of the Convention of 1847, that a charge of inconsistency like that alluded to, should be promptly met. Will you then, do me the favour to republish the 4th resolution reported by the Committee on Medical Education, at the recent meeting in Baltimore, as well as the 1st resolution of the corresponding committee of 1847? This will show that the lapse of another year, allowing the expression of public opinion, and a fuller investigation of the subject,—together with the long personal experience of the chairman of the late committee,—had combined to induce a stronger recommendation than ever of the six months course of lectures. To illustrate still more clearly that the Association has not retrograded, let me add, that while the original proposition to extend the course was met by an amendment to substitute "five" for "six" months, and was not at last adopted without dissent, the 4th resolution of the Baltimore committee was passed without an opposing voice.

While correcting misstatements, allow me to notice another contained in the Journal referred to above. It is there alleged that a resolution of the education committee, pledging the support of the Association to those schools only which should adopt its recommendations, was "passed over, as partaking too much of the character of a menace." The resolution here pointed at, was never before the Association for its action, but was withdrawn by the committee

when the resolutions attached to their report came up for discussion. It must indeed be regarded as an oversight, that such a resolution was appended to the report at all, the object being specifically embraced in one of the other resolutions, (the 4th,) reported by the committee.

So far, then, from its being correct to say that the alleged "menace" was "passed over," it is on the contrary, true, that *the Association actually reiterated its pledge to support such institutions only as adhere to its recommendations.*

I remain very truly yours, &c.,

ALFRED STILLE.

July 18th, 1848.

The fourth resolution referred to by our correspondent, will be found at page 64 of the Number of the News for June last.

*College of Physicians and Surgeons, University, State of New York.*—The forty-second session of this college will commence on Monday, 30th Oct., and continue until the end of March. A preliminary course of lectures will commence on the 2d Oct., and continue until the 30th Oct.

*University of Pennsylvania.*—The regular session in the Medical Department will commence on Monday, the 16th Oct. Preliminary lectures will be delivered daily from the 2d to the 14th of October, inclusive. The rooms for practical anatomy will be open from the 1st of October to the end of March. The commencement will be early in April.

#### FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

*Physiological local effects of Anæsthetic Agents.*—At the meeting of the Yorkshire branch of the *Provincial Med. and Surg. Association* on the 8th of June last, Mr. THOMAS NUNNELEY made a communication presenting some important and novel views on the use of anæsthetic agents.

Mr. Nunneley stated that for many months he had been engaged in making experimental researches on these agents, with a view to ascertain, as far as possible, the *modus operandi*, the doses which may be borne with impunity, and the different modes of application; as well as in case of an overdose, the best means to be adopted to counteract it. His experiments have not

merely extended to the common anæsthetic agents employed, such as ether and chloroform, but he has been endeavouring to ascertain whether or not there may be some others, which may either be more safely administered, or may possess still greater advantages than the usual agents employed; which appeared to him to be by no means impossible, inasmuch as, so far as he could ascertain, the selection of those now employed, rather than others, seemed to have depended rather upon accident than deduction from experimental research, proving them to be in all respects the best. He stated that he believed it not improbable that it would ultimately be found, that all those preparations which have a *radical basis*, (in the language of modern chemistry,) such as acetic ether, bisulphuret of carbon, aldehyde, and many others of an analogous character, upon some of which he had made extensive experiments, would possess similar properties on the animal economy.

Mr. Nunneley was also prepared to state, that *chloroform appeared to be the most deleterious to life*, to require the greatest care in its administration, and that the boundary up to a fatal dose is by no means well-marked—that of two animals, in apparently the same condition, the same dose being given in precisely the same way to both, the one will speedily die, while the other will bear it with impunity,—that from the effects observed, he has reason to think the ultimate effects are in some respects not dissimilar to those produced by prussic acid,—that to some animals, as for instance the newt, the frog, the toad, some fish, slugs, snails, and some insects, the effects are *more* rapidly fatal than prussic acid of Scheele's strength; and that even in higher animals, when under the influence of an incomplete dose, or recovering from the effects of a large dose of ether, chloroform, or prussic acid, the phenomena are in many respects very similar,—and further, that the numerous *post-mortem* examinations which he has made, fully corroborated this opinion. He stated that acetic ether, with which he had made numerous experiments, possesses very considerable anæsthetic powers,—that bisulphuret of carbon does also possess to some extent similar power, and so far as his experiments go, it is very important to add, that this power is of a safe character, the animal speedily recovering. But of all these remedies, he believes that sulphuric

ether will be found to be the safest and least noxious to life.

On these points Mr. Nunneley intends hereafter to lay his experiments, already very numerous and varied, before the profession. His chief object on the present occasion was to call the attention of the profession to experiments proving, as he thinks, the value and safety of a *new mode* of administering these agents, and to show that the action of all, or most of these agents, might be produced *locally by local application*, the sensorium being unaffected, consciousness being retained, and the limbs not subjected to their influence being unaffected. He stated that either by *immersion* in a small quantity, or by the *vapour applied* merely for a limited period, a limb may be rendered *perfectly motionless and senseless*, and what may be an additional advantage, *fixed in any desired position*. He had immersed his finger in these fluids for about half an hour or an hour, and at the end of this period the finger was nearly powerless and insensible, and that it was forty-eight hours before the effects entirely disappeared, a sensation of heat and discomfort extending along the tract of the nerves to the axilla. Before operating on a difficult case for artificial pupil, he had applied for twenty minutes a small quantity of the vapour of chloroform to the eye by means of a small jar which accurately fitted the orbit, with the effect of rendering the parts nearly insensible. The first effect of these agents when locally applied, is to produce redness, heat, and smarting, which subside, followed by swelling and redness of the integuments, which remain for some time. Mr. Nunneley stated that he could completely paralyze any limb of frogs or toads by immersion or exposure to the vapour, in about five minutes or less; and he mentioned, as a curious fact, that if the exposure to the influence were continued longer than was sufficient to produce a local effect, this influence extended to the corresponding limb of the other side: thus, for instance, if one hind leg became *too much* influenced, the other hind leg partook of the same effect—if the fore leg were too much affected, then the other fore leg became *so* likewise, and subsequently, the whole body—a result which Mr. Nunneley mentioned as strongly corroborative of his experiments with prussic acid, as detailed in the last volume of the "Provincial Transactions," and strong- ly supporting the opinions of Dr. Marshall Hall on "reflex action." By this new mode of application to the hind legs of rabbits, he had also been enabled to amputate the toes without the least indication of feeling.

These views were illustrated by a series of interesting experiments on frogs and toads, in which, after immersion for a few minutes, the limbs became insensible, and were amputated in repeated portions without any symptoms of pain whatever.

In a letter to the editors of the *Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal*, Mr. Nunneley further states:—

"I may mention that to-day, (June 22d,) I have operated upon a staphylomatous eye, in a man from a distance, after the local action of chloroform, when I removed the entire cornea with a small portion of sclerotic coat and iris, with hardly any infliction of pain; and what is singular, so completely were the muscles of the globe affected, that for some time afterwards the remains of the eye did not collapse, although their attachments were not cut through. The fluid had been applied longer than necessary, or than I had intended, as, after having given directions for it to be applied until my arrival, I was detained away longer than I had expected.

"I have been making experiments upon two new agents, both of which I find to possess considerable anæsthetic property, and one of which I believe will prove to be superior in every respect to chloroform."

—

*Asserted Specific for Asiatic Cholera.*—Mr. Guthrie has communicated to the Royal Medico-Botanical Society, some documents which he received from Circassia, attesting the successful treatment of cholera, in the Russian army, in the Caucasus, by naphtha, exhibited in small doses of from ten to twenty drops, the dose being repeated if necessary, which is rarely the case.

Dr. Andreyevski, in a letter to Mr. Guthrie, states, "Naphtha, or petroleum, not distilled, and the white is to be preferred, is an infallible remedy against diarrhoea cholérica, which prevails during certain seasons, in the dose of from four to eight drops in a little brandy, white wine, or mint-tea, taken cold; a single dose usually suffices to arrest the complaint. The evacuations, which in this species of diarrhoea

are always liquid and glairy, become more solid and less frequent. Sometimes the dose requires repetition at the end of two or three days. The diet should not be too strictly, although carefully, regulated. In completely developed cholera of a deadly nature, the cures are not so constant, and from fifteen to twenty drops of the naphtha are to be given for a dose. If they are vomited up, the dose should be repeated; a second is rarely required, if the first be retained. It acts evidently on the skin, and on the kidneys, and removes the cramps."

Prince Woronozow, the Russian Commander in-chief, writes Dr. Andreyeoski, "first met the cholera last year at Tamikhan, where it prevailed to a very serious degree. The hospital I visited, contained the first day more than two hundred patients; the cases generally were very bad, and the mortality great. On inquiring of the colonel commanding the Cossacks why there were so few Cossacks among the sick, he told us that he made light of the cholera, because they employed the elixir of Woroneje, which proved successful in almost every case. Andreyeoski immediately procured the recipe for the elixir, and on the first appearance of cholera in the convoy which accompanied me to the camp, he tried drops of that elixir with constant success. On examining that prescription, he found it to be a singular mixture of different matters looking very like a quack medicine, but containing, among other strange, and, as he thought, useless substances, some specific, acting favourably in cholera, and he told me that naphtha, one of the principal ingredients, might possibly be that specific." The stock of elixir being soon exhausted, Dr. Andreyeoski determined to try naphtha alone, and, as he expected, it succeeded, even in serious cases; but, in mere diarrhoea, the success was immediate. "He has, however, always resorted to the elixir in cases to which he was apparently called too late, in the blue stage, accompanied by cramps, &c.; but even in many of these advanced cases, naphtha alone has proved successful. I have seen several of our officers quite blue, and in extreme suffering, who were cured by it. As to simple diarrhoea during the existence of cholera, I do not know a single case which the naphtha

failed to cure, when resorted to immediate-ly." One of the Circassian chiefs was suddenly seized with cholera; before Dr. Andreyeoski could see him he had been bled, and was in the last stage of the disease; he was ordered some rum, and had two doses of the elixir, which, with friction and warm clothing, restored him to life and health; but the convalescence was tedious.

Prince W., in a subsequent letter, sends Mr. W. the following formula for the elixir of Woroneje.—R. Spir. vini rect., Ovijss; sal ammoniac, 3j; nitri depurati, 3j gr. xv; piperis, 3j gr. xv; aquæ regiæ, 3ss; aceti vini, Ojss; petrolei (naphthæ), 3ss; ol. olivæ, 3ss; ol. menth. piper., 3vij. Digerere per horas xij, et colla; capiat cochlearia duo parv., pro dosi omni quarta parte horæ.

*Death from Chloroform.*—A coroner's inquest was held in London, on the 1st of July, on the body of a gentleman 22 years of age, who died whilst inhaling chloroform, administered to him by Mr. Robinson, a dentist, preparatory to the extraction of some teeth. The verdict was that the patient had "died from the mortal effects of chloroform upon a heart extensively diseased, and greatly obstructed in its action by a liver much enlarged beyond its natural size." The chloroform was administered with every precaution.

*The Cholera.*—Accounts from St. Petersburg of the 24th ult., state that the cholera had broken out there on the 21st, and many deaths had already ensued. Six large hospitals were opened in that city, and others were in course of preparation. At Moscow it raged with great violence, and out of 222 cases, 122 were fatal. Many other places are suffering from the disease. Still more recent accounts mention that cholera was frightfully on the increase in Russia. From the 12th to the 19th of June, there were 1224 new cases of the disease in Moscow, and 928 deaths on the last named day. The disease is also gaining ground at Kazan, Niznei Novgorod, Kostroma, Jaroslav, Vologda, Smolensk, Tula, and Wilna. It has also made its appearance in Penza, Tarkow, Olonetz, Wilska, and Orel.

*191 B. Johnson*  
This Supplement will pay postage as a Pamphlet.

# THE MEDICAL NEWS AND LIBRARY.

SUPPLEMENT TO NO. 68 FOR AUGUST, 1848.

In the new French Government, M. Buchez President, and M. Recurt Vice President of the National Assembly, and M. Trélat Minister of Public Works, are all medical men. M. Recurt has also been appointed Minister of Public Works.

Dr. Farini, a celebrated Italian physician, has lately been appointed by Pope Pius IX., under Secretary for the home department in the papal territories, with the power of acting for the minister of the interior whenever necessary.

A botanical garden has just been established at Tahiti, by the French governor residing there, and is intended to comprise the whole Flora Oceanica.

Lord Ellesmere has presented two thousand dollars to King's College Hospital, London.

Twenty-five physicians have been elected as representatives to the new National Assembly of France.

Middlesex Hospital has received the munificent donation of \$50,000, from the executors of Lady Murray, wife of Sir James Murray.

It is announced that no less than ten physicians have been elected members of the National Assembly of Prussia.

The *excision of the head of the femur* has been performed for the first time on an adult in England, by Mr. Henry Smith.

By late accounts, the cholera had broken out afresh in Constantinople, and is reappearing, it is said, in the eastern confines of Russia. Accounts from Vienna mention that it has appeared at Galatz, on the Danube, in Moldavia. Accounts from St. Petersburg state that it is making alarming progress at Moscow; 464 fresh cases, and 205 deaths occurred during the last week of May. The cholera has also broken out with severity at Jaroslaw, Robinsk and Kalonga.

The first operation for ovariotomy in France, has recently been performed by Dr. Vaugeard.

*Aeropathy.*—After homeopathy and hydrotherapy, we have now aeropathy,—a new piece of charlatanism, by which Dr. Chaponnier introduces all therapeutical agents into the system through the respiratory organs, in the form of vapour. The next hoax offered to the gullible public will perhaps be vinopathy, as an offset against Priessnitz and Father Mathew.

An act to prevent the importation of worthless, adulterated, and misnamed drugs, has passed both houses of Congress. The public are greatly indebted to Dr. T. O. Edwards, of Ohio, a member of the House of Representatives, for his exertions in bringing this subject before Congress.

Mr. Nunneley, of Leeds, has been for many months engaged in making experiments on anaesthetic agents, and the results have satisfied him that the *chloroform* is the most deleterious to life, requires the greatest care in its administration, and that the boundary up to a fatal dose is by no means well-marked. Of all these agents, he further believes sulphuric ether to be the safest, and least noxious to life. Further details of the results of Mr. Nunneley's experiments may be found in the August number of the *Medical News*.

The *American Journal of the Medical Sciences* for July, 1848, contains an interesting paper by Dr. Emerson, "On the causes operative in determining the proportions of the sexes at birth," in which the author has shown from statistical data that, whatever influences tend to maintain a high state of physical health and energy, leads to an increase in the proportion of male births, while all agencies, moral or physical, which reduce the powers of organic life, diminish such preponderance. This is fully illustrated by the influence of the Asiatic cholera, which in Philadelphia and Paris, reduced the ordinary male excess from 6 or 7 per cent. to 1 per cent. The commercial embarrassments of 1836 in Philadelphia, caused a very perceptible diminution in the preponderance of male births for the years 1837-8.

By a resolution of the American Medical Association, a copy of the *Transactions* will be sent to such members only as shall have paid the annual assessment, three dollars,—and three copies will be furnished to those members who pay five dollars to the treasurer of the association. We understand that the committee of publication have decided to furnish all societies which have been represented in the association, copies of the *Transactions* for their members, on the same terms, viz., three copies for five dollars, on the proper officer of such societies remitting the amount to the treasurer of the association. The price will be two dollars per copy, to physicians not members, who may obtain them on remitting the amount to the publishers, Messrs. Lea and Blanchard, Philadelphia.

*This paper may be delivered to any physician, if declined by the person to whom it is addressed, or if they have removed—and Postmasters and others will particularly oblige the publishers by furnishing a list of the physicians and lawyers of their county or neighbourhood. In addition to the business it may bring to the office, a copy of "The Complete Gardener," sewed, or such other volume, will be sent by mail gratis, for any ten or more names furnished free of cost.*

Philadelphia, August, 1848.

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In calling the attention of the profession to the high character of the American Medical Journal, the publishers append an extract from the report of "The Committee on American Medical Literature," to the National Medical Association at their meeting in Baltimore, May, 1848. After advertizing to other matters, they say:—

"The 'Philadelphia Journal,' which has been already mentioned, was succeeded by the 'American Journal of the Medical Sciences,' established in 1827, and still continued, having reached its forty-first volume. The long standing of this publication, the support which it has received from many of the best writers in different parts of the country, and the elevated literary character and spirit which have distinguished it, have rendered it a favourite organ of the profession. So much of what is valuable in our periodical literature, during the long protracted period of its existence, has found a place in its pages, that it would be going beyond the limits of this report to attempt an analysis of its contents. Here have been recorded many of those daring operations which are dwelt upon with so much pride by the American surgeon. Numberless cases of unusual interest have been here related by their observers, often accompanied by illustrations, for the most part creditable to the art which has furnished them. Many of the reviews which it contains are conceived and executed in a higher spirit than the mere mechanical analyses and Taliacotian abstracts which so frequently usurp this department of scientific as well as literary journals. This periodical is so well known through the country, and a complete series of it so generally contained in public libraries, that a general index to it from the commencement would be one of the most acceptable offerings which could be made to the medical reader.

"The committee had prepared an account of the most prominent articles under their several heads, but it proves to be too voluminous for a report like the present. The names of some of its contributors will be enough to show how extensively it has been supported by the ablest writers and practitioners of the country. In *Anatomy and Physiology*, original papers have been furnished by Drs. Horner, Moultrie, Coxe, Mussey, Warren, Earle, Smith, Alison, Harrison, Gardner, Leidy and others. In *Surgery*, Drs. Godman, Mussey, Randolph, H. & J. M. Warren, Coates, Mott, Norris, Kirkbride, Geddings, Nott, Shipman, Markoe, Parrish, Mettauer, Mütter, Horner, Pancoast, Watson, Atlee, Hayward, are among those who have lent their assistance, some of the best known among them in many elaborate articles. In the department of *Practical Medicine*, a great number of original Reports and Essays have been supplied by Drs. Chapman, S. Jackson, Emerson, Coxe, Horner, Hayward, Ware, Wright, Jackson (of Northumberland), Parrish, Pennoch, Gerhard, Fisher, Nichols, E. Warren, Paine, Bigelow, Webber, Lindsay, Forrey, Beck, Flint, Coale, Earle, Stewardson, Kirkbride, Shanks, Parry, Mettauer, Whitney,

Pepper, Hall, Dexter, Jarvis, Beck, Wharton, Lovett, Nott, Moreton Stillé, Boling, Tabb, Taylor, Porter, Tuck, J. B. S. Jackson, Peebles, Kneeland, Gardner, Buckler, Mendenhall, Lane, and R. S. Holmes. On *Midwifery, and the Diseases of Women and Children*, among the principal contributors of original papers have been Drs. Dewees, Horner, Bigelow, Hodge, Gerhard, Geddings, Lindsay, E. Warren, Roberts, Lee, Kane, Shanks, Taylor, Bowen, Buel, Barwell, Bond, Sargent, Sims, and Baldwin. Many other names might be added to these lists, which, however, are sufficient evidence that the journal has been willingly and heartily upheld by the profession."

After enumerating the other Medical Journals published in the United States, the report continues:—

"The committee will now proceed to a brief enumeration of the more important articles, which have, within the past year, or at least recently, been presented to the profession in the medical journals of this country, taking them up in the order in which they have been enumerated.

"*American Journal of the Medical Sciences.*—The number for January, 1847, contains one of Dr. Norris's admirable *résumés*, a 'Table showing the mortality following the operation of tying the iliac arteries.' It is founded upon a hundred and eighteen cases gathered from various sources, which are presented in a condensed form and subjected to a careful analysis. The committee have already fully expressed their sense of the importance of Dr. Norris's labours. The paper which follows, by Dr. Trask of Brook'yn, N. Y., is worthy of succeeding that just mentioned. Four very full tables containing the history of fifty-three cases of phlegmasia dolens are given in this essay, the final object of which is to establish the pathology of the affection. Articles like the two just cited, are necessarily of permanent value. They cannot be superseded, because they have a solid basis of fact, and even if some of their conclusions were erroneous, the materials would remain as the basis of future results. The increased number of these laborious analytical surveys is one of the most encouraging features of our medical literature. In the midst of interminable discussions upon the value of the numerical system, the simple fact that tabulation affords a final result respecting a given number of facts, which mere perusal fails to do, is making itself felt like every truth which has time and fair play. The next article is one by Dr. Kirkbride on Hospitals for the Insane, and the fourth a brief account by Dr. Wilcocks, of the epidemic remittent and intermittent of 1846. Then follow four cases of acute affection of the

spinal marrow, with dissections, by Dr. J. B. S. Jackson of Boston, marked by his accustomed accuracy of description. Several other cases are reported in this number, which contains two reviews of some interest, and the usual variety in its minor departments.

"The first article in the number for April 1847, is one of great practical interest. It is the '*History of seven cases of Pseudo membranous Laryngitis or True Croup*,' by Dr. J. F. Meigs. The fact that recovery took place, in four cases where there was fibrinous exudation on the fauces, entitles the history of these cases to the most careful examination, and affords a strong presumption in favour of the general plan of treatment adopted. It is well known that long series of similar cases have been observed, every one of which has proved fatal, and that the whole question of treatment is considered as involved in perplexity by many able observers. The paper which follows, by Dr. Baldwin, *Observations on the Poisonous Properties of the Sulphate of Quinine*, has been most extensively quoted, and has called out various other communications confirming the results at which he has arrived. In the malarious regions of our country, where the "monster doses" of this heroic remedy are so commonly given, it is of vital importance that all the risks they involve should be generally known. Then follow various reports of medical and surgical diseases, among which Dr. Earle's eleven cases of general paralysis of the insane cannot fail to be noticed for their psychological and pathological bearings, as well as the happy way in which they are related. A practical essay by Dr. Hildreth, on letting blood from the jugular in diseases of children concludes the list of original communications.

"The July number opens with another statistical article from Dr. Norris, on the operation of tying the carotids, of the same high character with those which he has furnished in previous numbers. The next paper is one by Dr. Hallowell, on cholera infantum, which he calls by the singular name of *gastro-follicular enteritis*; which would seem to imply inflammation of the intestines seated in the follicles of the stomach. The essay is an instructive one, based on considerable experience and supported by two reported cases with a tabular analysis of twelve *post-mortem* examinations. A '*Note on the frequency of the pulse and respiration of the aged*,' by Dr. Pennock, adds authority to the curious results obtained by Leuret and Mitivé, who found the average frequency of the pulse in young men to be 65 per minute, while that of the aged was 73; a statement in direct opposition to the prevailing belief on this point. '*Hydro-pathy, or the use of cold water for the Prevention and Cure of Disease*,' by Dr. Kneeland, is the title of a Boylston prize essay, here published without any allusion to its laureate honours. The key to the author's position is found in the following sentence: 'Instead of leading man back to the forsaken paths of nature, physicians

have preferred the easier plan of ministering to this altered condition by the ingenious and stupendous system of modern therapeutics.' He appears to believe, and as the Committee think, very justly, that much indirect benefit may result even from the experiments of the hydro-pathist and homeopathist, notwithstanding the illusions and impositions that surround the fountain of the Silesian boor and the laboratory of the Saxon necromancer. The interest of Dr. Brown's account of his visit to the Cretins, in the institution on the Abenberg, is owing not merely to the novelty of the subject, which is just beginning to attract the attention of philanthropists, but to the agreeable style of the narrative. In a country which has done as much as our own for the insane, the blind and the deaf and dumb it cannot be long before the improvement of the condition of the unfortunate idiot will be felt to be a public duty. Dr. Mettauer, whose name is familiar to the records of operating surgery, reports two cases of vesico-vaginal fistula, with the operations for their relief, one of which was perfectly successful, and the other, though repeated again and again, was but partially so. But this, as Dr. Mettauer thinks, was owing to the patient's amiable indiscretions, and he is decidedly of opinion that every case of vesico-vaginal fistula can be cured. Dr. Harris relates a case of doubtful sex, in connection with which the editor quotes that described by Dr. Barry, in the New York Journal of Medicine for January, 1847. Dr. Boling's new sign of pneumonia of the apex of the lungs, needs confirmation by other observers. The Committee can affirm, at least, that it is not constant. It was extraordinary if, as Dr. Boling asserts, the chest remained still resonant on percussion over the apex of the lung in a state of hepatization. This number contains a long notice of Dr. Wood's Practice of Medicine, by one of the most searching and skilful reviewers our periodicals have ever enlisted in their service. It may be hinted, that one epithet, however judicious, must not be repeated too often; the accomplished reviewer remembers Gyas and Cloanthus.

"The number for October, 1847, has for its leading article a continuation of Dr. Metcalf's *Statistics in Midwifery*, containing the results of 927 cases observed in private practice. It is a most creditable production to the author and the friends by whom he was aided, and may serve as an encouragement and a model to other practitioners situated at a distance from the more active centres of scientific industry. Dr. Michel's history of an early ovum is not without interest, though its illustration is less exquisite than the 'Icones' of Wagner, and the style is wanting in the simplicity which should belong to an anatomical description. Dr. Harden's Essay on Isopathia, agrees with the general belief in maintaining the similarity of scrofula and phthisis, but will hardly be thought to have established the doctrine, that Bright's disease is

*isopathic* with these affections. Why *molluscum* should come under the same head is hard to explain. In the days of isomerism and isomorphism, it is natural enough for a medical observer to be pleased with the thought of introducing some such parallelism of elements into medicine, but it may be questioned, how much is gained by the somewhat promiscuous erudition and finely drawn propositions of this elaborate essay, beyond a harmonious name for a well known principle. Dr. Kelley of Mobile, has given an account of yellow fever as this disease has presented itself to his own notice, written in clear and simple language, and keeping more closely than many writers on this subject have done to the strict results of observation. Some remarkable surgical cases and operations, a case of incision of the os uteri during labour on account of its partial occlusion, some researches on the structure and functions of the ciliary processes, and the case of the murderer Freeman, with a long review of some of the Boâ Vista fever documents finish the list of original articles. In this number, October 1847, appears a new and distinct head of medical intelligence, entitled *ether inhalation as a means of annulling pain*. It is remarkable, that as so much patient deliberation was shown in preparing the abstract of what was before the public, on this subject, an article like that of Dr. Pickford should be admitted, but more remarkable still, that any sensible reader should have been frightened out of receiving the last great gift of Mercy, by the assertions of such a writer, as would appear to have happened in at least one instance.

"In the number for January, 1848, the leading article is Dr. Leidy's paper on the Comparative Structure of the Liver. This is unquestionably the most exact and complete Essay in the department of microscopic anatomy which has appeared in any American Medical Journal. The patient accuracy of the measurements, the finish and clearness of the numerous illustrations are nothing more than would have been anticipated by those who know the zeal and talent of this exquisite dissector and delineator. The article which follows, by Dr. Frick, is one of the first attempts at the investigation of the chemical changes of the blood induced by disease, made in this country. Most of the conclusions arrived at by the laborious observations which served as its basis, coincide with those of previous observers. One peculiar and novel result arrived at by Dr. Frick is, that the quantity of the chlorides and phosphates of soda and potash is dependent, not upon the particular disease, but upon the *season of the year* in which the examination is made, being much higher in winter and spring than in summer and fall. Dr. Foltz deserves credit for printing his valuable Report on Scorbustus. It could be wished that

all officers in the public service would discharge their professional debt as faithfully. Some of the author's expressions would seem to imply that *proteine exists only in vegetables*, which cannot surely have been what he intended to assert. Dr. Blake's paper appears to be founded on the same experiments which this ingenious physiologist reported some years ago to the British Association, and which have already taken their place in physiological science. The indefatigable Dr. Earle gives a brief analysis of five hundred and ninety-four cases of delirium tremens admitted into the Bloomingdale Asylum. Then follow several reports of interesting surgical cases; under the name of 'Monograph' we have next 'A Statistical Inquiry into the Causes, Symptoms, Pathology, and Treatment of Rupture of the Uterus,' by Dr. Trask, of Brooklyn, whose labours have been already mentioned with commendation.

"The first paper in the April number is an account, by Dr. J. M. Warren, of Operations for Fissure of the Soft and Hard Palate, with the result of twenty-four cases, at the close of which is an important additional note upon the early operation for hare-lip. Dr. Warren proposed, some years ago, and has often executed, a new operation, which is fully described in this paper and the annexed cases. Dr. Peeble's 'Result of cases of Pneumonia, treated chiefly by Tartar Emetic,' may be well calculated to excite attention to the possible ill effects of that remedy, but is deficient in the diagnostic elements of its cases. The third patient, for instance, may have suffered, for all that appears, from phthisis with ulceration of the bowels. It does not appear from the record that the previous good health had persisted unchanged up to the period of the acute attack. Cases of successful vaginal hysterotomy and delivery by the forceps; of traumatic trismus successfully treated; of a fatal gun-shot wound of the neck; of ligature of both carotids; of the extirpation of a tumour of the uterus, simulating ovarian disease; of cancer of the stomach, and of melanosis, are reported in this number—certainly a very remarkable collection of important medical and surgical histories, and implying an ample supply of materials to allow of such selections. Add to this Dr. Parson's 'Statistics of Large Surgical Operations,' the Midwifery Statistics from private practice, by Dr. Pleasants, and the continuation of Dr. Trask's paper on Rupture of the Uterus, probably the most complete account of that accident to be found in print, and it must be owned that the patriarchal quarterly has not fallen below its own high standard of merit, at the point where the Committee takes leave of it for the present."\*

\* These extracts are from copies of the Report to be furnished to the Chairman of that Committee, Dr. Holmes of Boston.